



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Town of Leo-Cedarville to hold Ribbon Cutting for Downtown Revitalization Improvements.

November 30, 2021 – At 4:30 p.m. on December 2, 2021, a ribbon cutting will be held in downtown Leo-Cedarville by the Town of Leo-Cedarville, NewAllen Alliance, and the Leo-Cedarville Foundation. This event will celebrate several projects that were completed in 2021.

- A \$1,247,000 streetscape improvement project along 2-blocks of Center Street (Hwy 1) from Hosler Road to Walnut Street was completed in old downtown Leo. This project received \$750,000 in funding by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) through the Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Program with remaining funds from the Town of Leo-Cedarville.
- The Wayne and Main Street Improvement Project, which intersects with the streetscape improvement area, is a \$518,591 project which received \$389,018 from the Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings Program which was matched by the Town.
- In complement to the infrastructure improvements, the Pride of Leo mural was installed at the northwest corner of the intersection of Hwy 1 and Main Streets at a cost of approximately \$10,000 which received funding assistance from the Indiana Arts Commission and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The Town of Leo-Cedarville and the Leo-Cedarville Foundation also facilitated and financially supported the Pride of Leo mural.

According to John Eastes, Leo-Cedarville’s Town Council President, “I believe it appropriate that we pause to remember that many individuals cooperatively have given sacrificially of their time and talent that led to building out the outstanding area that now lies within a portion Leo-Cedarville’s downtown business district. In an attempt to leverage existing assets, Leo-Cedarville’s slightly less than \$1.25 million-dollar downtown Streetscape Project became possible because of East Allen’s Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Designation that was received in 2018. On January 20, 2020, due to the efforts of many individuals, the Town of Leo-Cedarville was awarded a U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Federal Block Grant in the amount of \$750,000 through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). As a result of receiving that Federal grant, and because of the unanimous support of Council, a portion of Leo-Cedarville’s accumulated CEDIT funds were put to work to make this revitalization project more than a dream, and I want to thank everyone whose generosity, creativity and hard work made the project a reality.”

“These downtown revitalization projects are a great example of what the Stellar Communities program is designed to achieve,” said the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Executive Director, Denny Spinner. “These improvements will help welcome residents and tourists into town, and further incentivize community and economic development. Congratulations to everyone who made each of these projects possible.”

The development team for this effort included: Leo-Cedarville’s Town Manager, Engineering Resources, Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council, Sturtz Public Management Group, AH Public Spaces, API Construction, Wayne Asphalt, and artist Tim Parsley.

After the Ribbon Cutting, the community’s annual “Coming Home for Christmas” event will kick off, celebrating shopping local and the holiday season with special offerings around town, extended retail hours and opportunities to see Santa Claus. The combined effort on behalf of town government, its parks and its local Foundation will kick off with a special entrance from Santa hosted by Northeast County Fire & EMS and Leo High School at 5 p.m.

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East Allen’s Rural Revival Overview: This project is part of NewAllen’s East Allen Rural Revival Regional Development Plan, which led to the Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Designation in 2018. East Allen’s Rural Revival Plan brings together the seven communities of Harlan, Hoagland, Grabill, Leo-Cedarville, Monroeville, New Haven, and Woodburn under one bold vision – to connect communities through improved quality of place. The plan – totaling a portfolio of \$65 million dollars focuses on downtowns, parks, sidewalks, trails, housing and community health. Leo-Cedarville’s Streetscape Project will be in complement to similar streetscape improvements being planned for Grabill in 2022, as well as the addition of the Cedar Creek Parks Trail from Allen County’s Metea Park through Leo-Cedarville and Grabill up to Hurshtown Reservoir planned for the 2022-2023 timeframe.